

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02072 181220Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /082 W
-----042409 190911Z /10

R 181133Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3322
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2072

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GV, SG
SUBJECT: RECONCILIATION WITH GUINEA CONAKRY: SENGHOR PLEDGES TO
MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

1. I SAW PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON MARCH 17, ONE DAY PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE FOR MONROVIA TO ATTEND THE RECONCILIATION SUMMIT
WITH SEKOU TOURE. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY USG
SUPPORT FOR THE RECONCILIATION. I SAID "MR. PRESIDENT, IT
IS WELL KNOWN THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN ABSENCE OF ENTHUSIASM
ON YOUR PART. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ON THE BASIS OF
OUR OBSERVATIONS, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE GOUNDS FOR THE HOPE
THAT A PROFOUND CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE IN SEKOU TOURE'S
THINKING. SENGHOR REPLIED, "PLEASE INFORM WASHINGTON THAT
IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE US ANALYSIS THAT I AM GOING
THROUGH WITH THIS. EACH TIME THAT I DEMONSTRATE MY
RETICENCE, HOUPHOUET TELLS ME THAT THE AMERICANS ARE
ENTHUSIASTIC, THEREFORE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING
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SUBSTANTIVE HAPPENING IN CONAKRY. I AM NOT FOLLOWING
THE FRENCH LEAD ON THIS ONE. I KNOW THEIR GAME. THEY
WANT TO OPEN UP GUINEA TO A RETURN OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL
INTERESTS. IF THE AMERICANS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC IT MUST
BE BECAUSE THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL CHANGE."

2. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT SENGHOR WILL NOT DO

ANYTHING TO UNDERMINE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION WITH
CONAKRY. BUT HE WILL CERTAINLY BE LOOKING FOR SPECIFIC
SIGNS OF EVOLUTION SUCH AS A DIMINUTION OF THE SOVIET/
CUBAN PRESENCE. IT IS CLEARLY IN THE US INTEREST FOR
THIS TYPE OF PRESSURE ON SEKOU TOURE TO COME FROM
AFRICAN RATHER THAN ESTERN SOURCES.
COHEN

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Message Attributes

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